



CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 077-2004

To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: April 2, 2004

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jorge", written over the name "Jorge M. Gonzalez".

Subject: WEEKLY UPDATE

The purpose of this LTC is to provide the Mayor and Commission with an update describing some of the areas the administration has recently been focusing on:

Budget Preparations – The Office of Budget and Performance Improvement (OBPI) continues to work on budget preparations with all City Departments for the next fiscal year. All departments have turned in their budget requests on March 31 and budget reviews are scheduled to take place throughout April and May. Briefings with the Commission will be scheduled for early June.

On-Line Building Permit Processing – Staff and I met on March 22 to finalize plans for the City's on-line building permit processing designed to provide increasingly higher, more efficient levels of customer service by streamlining the building permit process. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on the City's website, this system gives building professionals and residents in Miami Beach self-service, online access to permit information and services. In addition to being available through the City's website, an information Kiosk will be available at City Hall with access to the City's website as well as a live link to the on-line building service. The system should be operational by the April 14 City Commission meeting. Additional details regarding the system will be shared at the April 14 Commission meeting.

Quality of Life Issues – Several meetings took place to continue addressing quality of life issues on Miami Beach. Staff and I attended, along with the Mayor and several Commissioners the "Mayor on the Move" meeting on March 22 and heard several concerns from residents. In addition, I met with the representatives from Police, Neighborhood Services, Public Works and Legal on March 24 to discuss issues related to noise.

Potamkin Site – Staff and I met on March 24 to continue discussing issues related to the Potamkin site. I plan to travel to Atlanta on April 5 to finalize some outstanding issues. The first reading of the development agreement will be heard by the Commission at your April 14 meeting.

Police Department – Chief Donald De Lucca and the Miami Beach Police Department were presented with the Franklin Covey Organizational Excellence award on March 25 at the Franklin Covey Company's Principle Centered Leadership Symposium in Atlanta Georgia. This award honors organizations utilizing the Covey principles that have demonstrated a strong record of leadership.

Council of Excellence in Government - Upon their request, I met with representatives from the Council for Excellence in Government on March 25 to discuss leadership development within government entities. This group, comprised of 25 senior level employees of the U.S. federal government from departments including the Departments of Education, State, NASA, Social Security Administration, Army, Air Force, CIA, EPA and Administration of Children, Youth & Families, visit leading private, not-for-profit and government organizations to meet with leaders who share their insights on achieving high performance. Commissioner Bower and Tom Mooney also spoke to the group and shared insight regarding our historic preservation efforts. The City of Miami Beach was given the honor of being the only municipal government in the country selected this year to take part in this study; and the fourth consecutive year which I have been made part of the process

Major Events Planning (MEP) – Staff worked throughout the past several weeks to ensure that various special events held on Miami Beach were successful and have been meeting to plan and prepare for several major events that will be taking place on Miami Beach in the next couple of months, including the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Cultural Arts Council (CAC) – I met with Ada Liernedi, Chair of the CAC, on March 25 to discuss several issues related to the CAC and explore ways in which the CAC and the City can work even better together to continue benefiting the community.

City's Birthday – A historical exhibit of photos from the City are currently on display in the 4th Floor Gallery and will run through April 26, 2004. In addition, the "All-America City Birthday Celebration" took place on Saturday, March 27 at North Shore Open Space Park and will included food, games, and the celebration of the City's birthday. The event drew nearly 800 employees and members of the community that came out to celebrate.

National Association for the Advancement of the Arts (NAFAA) – Staff and I and representatives from the New World Symphony and the Miami City Ballet met with representatives from NAFAA on March 29 to discuss a major event that plan to hold on Miami Beach in January 2005.

New World Symphony – Staff and I met with representatives of the New World Symphony to continue discussing and reviewing project concept plans that will be reviewed by the Planning Board at their May meeting and then by the City Commission at a future City Commission meeting.

Parks and Recreation – The City's "spring break" camp was available from March 29 through April 2 (the week Miami Dade County public school students are on spring break) from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and included activities, games, sports and other events. An Easter egg hunt is being planned for Saturday, April 10 at the North Shore Open Space Park and is open and free to all children and residents. In addition, on Saturday, April 17, the Miami-Dade chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) along with the City's Parks and Recreation Department, is planning to co-host an informal community design charrette for Poinciana Park. The park, located at the intersection of W. 63rd St. and La Gorce Dr., is highly underutilized and has opportunity for basic improvements that may better serve the community. To celebrate Arbor Day, which is celebrated on April 17, the Parks and Recreation Department has committed approximately \$2,500 for the purchase and installation of trees in the park, using the charrette's master plan for the park as a guide. Also on that day, the City will celebrate Arbor Day in the Poinciana Park with a tree planting ceremony and a brief verbal-educational presentation of the history of Arbor Day and the important role that green-space plays in the earth's ecosystem.

Voter Registration Program – Staff from the Administration has been working with Commissioner Steinberg's office to create a voter registration program to increase voter registration and participation and create and stimulate awareness among Miami Beach residents about voting. This incentive program will offer Miami Beach registered voters a discount at several local businesses. Additional details about this program will be shared at the April 14 Commission meeting.

Hurricane Preparedness – Staff has started to prepare for hurricane season and has scheduled the third annual City of Miami Beach Hurricane Information and Preparedness Fair to take place on Saturday, June 5, 2004 from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. along the 1000 block of Lincoln Road. The purpose of the event is to reach out to the community and provide information on what the City does and what is suggested for residents and businesses to do, before during and after hurricanes in an effort to educate and protect our residents and businesses.

Union Contracts – Staff from our Office of Labor Relations continues to meet separately with representatives from the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and ASFCME unions in the hopes of reaching fair agreements in the near future.

Normandy Isles / Normandy Shores Encroachments – Staff and I did a walk through of the Normandy Isles and Normandy Shores areas to look at right-of-way encroachments that might represent a potential conflict at some point.

City of Doral – On March 29, I met with the new, and first, City Manager from Doral to share insights and offer support as she begins managing one of the County's newest municipalities.

North Beach Development Corporation – Staff and I met with representatives from the North Beach Development Corporation on March 30 to discuss the priorities for use of the Quality of Life funds in North Beach.

Florida Legislature – I traveled to Tallahassee with staff and Commissioners Garcia and Steinberg to take part in Miami Dade Days. Our agenda while we were in Tallahassee included meeting with various members of our state delegation to discuss ongoing and relevant issues being considered by the state legislature during this year's legislative session.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

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